

MCFT

Monroe County Federation of Teachers

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Monroe County Federation of Teachers Urges Parents: “Be Informed about Testing”

The Monroe County Federation of Teachers (MCFT), representing the 20 teacher unions in Monroe County’s school districts, expressed their continued concern with New York State’s emphasis on standardized tests and the resultant impact on teaching and learning, especially in grades 3-8. Officers of MCFT and parents who will be refusing tests for their children will address the press at 4 PM on Tuesday, March 22 at the Burgundy Basin Inn, 1361 Marsh Road. A copy of the MCFT resolution is attached.

“MCFT stands in solidarity with families, and support a parent’s right to choose their child’s level of participation in high stakes testing,” said Andy Jordan, co-president of the BOCES United Professionals and MCFT Secretary.

This school year NYS Commissioner Elia has removed time limits from high stakes testing, and slightly reduced the amount of questions on tests, however very little has changed. The removal of one reading passage, a single constructed response question and a small handful of multiple choice questions is not a significant reduction in the length of these tests. Furthermore, the removal of time limits will likely make the tests take longer for many students.

In addition, these tests:

- Are created by the same company as those given in 2015 (Pearson);
- Will remove six hours, or more, teaching and learning time from the school year;
- Continue to be developmentally inappropriate for some students, particularly for many English language learners and students with disabilities;
- Scores will only be released after the school year has concluded and scored with a single-digit, making it impossible to yield discernable data about student learning that could guide instruction;
- Educators remain under a gag order, and may not discuss test content making it impossible to co-develop strategies students could use to increase their success,
- Finally, despite the claims of politicians in Albany, the results of these scores will continue to “advise” school districts.

“It is our united belief that a Parent has ultimate responsibility for determining their child’s level of participation in high stakes testing, and should give serious consideration to the intent, and purpose of said testing before a final decision about their child’s participation is made,” said Jordan.

The threats previously reported by US Secretary of Education John King to deny title one funding to New York State schools should a minimum threshold of participation in testing fail to be met are idle. Said MCFT Secretary Jordan, “We believe that threats of loss of funding to New York State schools should a minimum threshold of participation in testing fail to be met are contrived. No school has ever been denied funding on this basis.”